



THE KUMASE CONVERSATION-1ST GHANA TRADITIONAL PRIESTS CONFERENCE 2014

AKOM FIRI TETE.....AKOM NE ADURO

"Medicine women and men (traditional doctors) are found in every village. Their work, which is in constant demand, is highly appreciated by the community. They undergo long training and apprenticeship. They learn to diagnose illnesses and complaints that affect not only human beings but also animals and fields. They acquire knowledge of herbs, roots, fruits, shells, insects and juices, and their medicinal properties. They use divination to communicate with the invisible world and at the psychic level of consciousness".

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The conference is aimed at strengthening the capacities of Traditional Priests who have been marginalized and neglected in national conversations for them to be empowered with knowledge and resources to enable them function effectively and efficiently; to contribute positively in the national development agenda and to improve on quality of life for themselves, families and communities. Traditional Healers who are mostly trained Indigenous Priests and Priestess in Ghana suffer segregation, discrimination as well as humiliation at the hands of many Ghanaians for lack of knowledge about what Traditional Priesthood is about. A trained and graduate traditional priest is the special person with specialized knowledge skills who Professor Mbiti describes in the above opening quote. The possession of extensive knowledge in herbal and other healing practices by the trained priest makes him/her a key player in health care delivery in Ghana; such group of people cannot be ignored by the government or any international body including the United Nations. Since majority of Ghanaians especially those in rural and some urban centres rely heavily on alternative medicine and is a first medicine of choice for many, the need for quality discussion on its practice, networking, creating awareness and further education for participants is eminent. The conference will also draw on the importance of tradition as well as scientific research to offer the best of both worlds. Participants will enrich their knowledge of herbalism, herbs as applied to clinical case review, and expand their skills in formulation. They will also enjoy a variety of topics, including shrine and effective financial management, culture and national development, culture and human rights, culture and environmental conservation and protection, culture and new media, culture and tourism potentials, communication policies and how to market their service in today's fast pace world.



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